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COPY

Of a Paper delivered by the Honourable Admiral *Byng*, to *William Brough*, Eſq; Marſhal of the High Court of Admiralty, immediately before his Death; having firſt ſpoke as follows:

SIR,

Theſe are my Thoughts on this Occaſion, I give them to you, that you may authenticate them, and prevent any Thing ſpurious being publiſhed, that might tend to defame me. I have given a Copy to one of my Relations.

A Few Moments will now deliver me from the Virulent Perſecution, and fruſtrate the farther Malice of my Enemies. Nor need I envy them a Life ſubject to the Senſations my Injuries and the Injuſtice done me muſt create. Perſwaded I am, Juſtice will be done to my Reputation hereafter. The Manner and Cauſe of raiſing and keeping up the Popular Clamour and Prejudice againſt me, will be ſeen thro'. I ſhall be conſidered (as I now perceive myſelf) a Victim, deſtin'd to divert the Indignation and Reſentment of an injured and deluded People, from the proper Objects. My Enemies themſelves muſt now think me innocent. Happy for me, at this my laſt Moment, that I know my own Innocence, and am conſcious that no Part of my Country's Misfortunes can be owing to me. I heartily wiſh the ſhedding my Blood may contribute to the Happineſs and Service of my Country; but cannot reſign my juſt Claim to a faithful Diſcharge of my Duty, according to the beſt of my Judgment, and the utmoſt Exertion of my Ability for his Majeſty's Honour, and my Country's Service. I am ſorry that my Endeavours were not attended with more Succeſs, and that the Armament under my Command proved too weak to ſucceed in an Expedition of ſuch Moment.

Truth has prevailed over Calumny and Falſehood, and Juſtice has wiped off the ignominious Stain of my ſuppoſed want of perſonal Courage, or Diſaffection. My Heart acquits me of theſe Crimes. But who can be preſumptiouſly ſure of his own Judgment? If my Crime is an Error in Judgment, or differing in Opinion from my Judges; and if yet, the Error in Judgment ſhould be on their Side, God forgive them, as I do; and may the Diſtreſs of their Minds and Uneaſineſs of their Conſciences, which in Juſtice to me they have repreſented, be relieved and ſubſide, as my Reſentment has done.

The Supreme Judge ſees all Hearts, and Motives, and to him I muſt ſubmit the Juſtice of my Cauſe.

J. Byng.

On board his Majeſty's Ship Monarque,
in Portſmouth Harbour, March 14, 1757.